

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Early Arrival of the White-winged Triller.—Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 1967, p. 308) state that the White-winged Triller (*Lalage sueurii*) arrives in the southern parts of Western Australia in the "latter half of September or beginning of October." However on August 23, 1975, near Merredin, I observed a male of the species as it foraged through *Acacia* scrub. Another solitary male was again observed on August 28 in the same locality. This early sighting may eventually prove to be not so unusual as Loaring and Serventy (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 3, 1952: 113) recorded a singing male at Lake Wannamal on August 26, 1950.

—GREG. LINSTEAD, Merredin.

White-capped Albatross off Fremantle.—The White-capped Albatross (*Diomedea cauta*) is seen infrequently off Fremantle, W.A., hence the following report of a recent observation.

During the return trip from Rottneet Island on September 7, 1976, I observed a single albatross some distance from the vessel. At first sighting the underwing pattern and manner of flight indicated a Wandering Albatross *D. exulans*; a clear view showed the all-white underparts except for the dark tips to the wings. However, as the bird banked and changed direction, the dorsal view showed the completely dark wing pattern continuing across the back. The bird was viewed for some minutes before disappearing from sight.

At the time of the observation, a stiff, south-west wind was blowing and the sea was choppy.

S. G. LANE, Lane Cove, N.S.W. 2066.

The Short-tailed Shearwater in South-Western Western Australia.—Hitherto the Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) was unknown in Western Australia from west of Hopetoun, 1,250 km west of the nearest breeding colony in the Nuyts Archipelago, off Ceduna, S.A. In 1976 three beach-washed specimens were found considerably further west.

On April 28, Drs. D. Kabay and A. N. Start collected the remains of an all-dark shearwater on the beach at Two Peoples Bay. From its condition we estimate that the bird had been dead about a month. The white of the under-wing is unusual but not unknown in *P. tenuirostris*.

On October 24 Mrs. Alma de Rebeira picked up a dead all-dark shearwater on a beach near Albany. Its legs and bill were dark and the under-wing was grey. It had probably been washed up a week earlier.

On November 6 Mrs. de Rebeira found a decomposed all-dark shearwater on the beach at Yallingup, south of Cape Naturaliste. Its underwing was grey, and it had probably been dead for 1-2 weeks. This specimen is the first from the west coast of Australia.

The measurements of all three specimens are consistent only with *Puffinus tenuirostris*. Respectively the exposed culmen is 33.0, 33.1, 33.4; wing 276, 274, 278; and tail 81, 87 and 82 mm.

Subsequently the following note was received from Dr. C. S. Lloyd, of the Edward Grey Institute, Oxford (she had visited the Esperance district in November-March): "On January 16, 1977 I found a partly decomposed all-dark shearwater at Twilight Beach, west of Esperance. The culmen length was 29.7 mm., consistent with *Puffinus tenuirostris*. The skull was shown later to Dr. D. L. Serventy who confirmed the identification."

—G. M. STORR and R. E. JOHNSTONE, W.A. Museum.